

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 187
By DeBerry L

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Reverend Milton
Brunson.

WHEREAS, it was with great sadness and a profound sense of loss that the members of this General Assembly and the citizens of our state learned of the death of Reverend Milton Brunson on April 1, 1997; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Milton Brunson was a distinguished individual who was very dedicated to his religion, community and family; and

WHEREAS, Milton Brunson exemplified the true meaning of hard work, dedication and a genuine love for young people; and

WHEREAS, in 1948, Milton Brunson organized a mass choir at the McKinley High School in Chicago, Illinois; and

WHEREAS, always willing to help the young people of the community, the Reverend Eugene Thompson of the St. Stevens A.M.E. Church, allowed Milton and the choir to practice at his church;

WHEREAS, in appreciation of Reverend Thompson's help, the choir became known as the Thompson Community Singers, or "The Tommies"; and

WHEREAS, "The Tommies" splashed onto the gospel music scene with the hit "It's Gonna Rain", and began to fill up auditoriums throughout the city; and

WHEREAS, because of his profound love for teaching the Lord's word, Milton Brunson became and ordained minister in 1962, and always preached to the young people the importance of education; and

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WHEREAS, through song, Reverend Brunson and the Thompson Community Singers reminded the world of the vast changes in times and thoughts; and

WHEREAS, the Thompson Community Singers have remained together for 43 exemplary years, making them the oldest community choir in the country; and

WHEREAS, during their long, productive tenure in gospel music, they have performed at the Apollo Theater, Madison Square Garden and the National Baptist Convention, to name a few; and

WHEREAS, the legacy Reverend Brunson leaves behind will be long remembered and treasured by friends and associates for many years to come; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that this legislative body pause in its deliberations to remember the exemplary life of this remarkable gentleman; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, SENATE CONCURRING, That we honor the memory of Reverend Milton Brunson, remembering with admiration his exemplary character and many selfless contributions to the community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we express our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Reverend Milton Brunson.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.